



# Saguaro National Park News Release

14-14

*For Immediate Release*

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## Saguaro National Park February Program Schedule

*Saguaro National Park is offering a variety of hikes and talks this winter that explore the park's wonderful natural and cultural history. Program listings also are available on the park's website, [www.nps.gov/sagu](http://www.nps.gov/sagu), or visit us on Facebook. Interpretive programs are free, but park entrance fees apply. Program schedules are subject to change; call the visitor centers for updates or reservations.*

### **Naturalist Programs at Tucson Mountain District (West, 2700 N. Kinney Road):**

**Feb. 10 2:30 p.m. Wasson Peak Moonlight Hike** 6½-7 hours, 8 miles

Climb 1,700 feet at an easy pace to the highest point in the Tucson Mountains, enjoy the 360° sunset views, and descend by the light of the moon. The hike is considered difficult due to gaining elevation and hiking after dark.

Reservations required; 733-5158

**Feb. 11 4:30 p.m. Twilight Glow To Moon Shadows** Hike: 3½ hours, 2½ miles roundtrip

This easy hike bridges sunset and darkness. Hikers will experience the desert both in the twilight glow and in moon shadows. Reservations required; 733-5158.

**Feb. 12 4:00 p.m. Sunset Hike** Hike: 3¾ hours, 3½ miles roundtrip

This moderate hike gains 700 feet with most of the elevation change in switchbacks near the ridgeline. Hikers will watch the sunset before descending under moonlight. Reservations required; 733-5158.

**Feb. 13 4:45 p.m. Moon Take Night, Make Day** Hike: 3 hours, 2½ miles roundtrip

Visitors will enjoy the sunset before returning in the moonlight. This hike is considered easy but includes a few high-stepping rocky outcroppings in the wash. Reservations required; 733-5158.

**Feb. 14 6:45 p.m. Moonrise Over The Mountain** Campfire Talk: 45 minutes

Celebrate Valentine's Day by listening to Native American flute music while viewing the full moon rising over the mountains at the Red Hills Visitor center. Bring a lawn chair and warm clothing to enjoy this informal campfire program. *No reservations required.*

**Feb. 1, 8, 15, 22 10:45 a.m. Living With Giants** Talk: 30 minutes

The saguaro celebrates events and faces challenges throughout its life. A biologist explains how it provides shelter and substance for wildlife; when it flowers; its growth patterns; and how it fights for survival against drought, lightning, frost, and other dangers. Call 733-5158 the day of the program to confirm. *Wheelchair accessible.*

**Feb. 6, 13, 20, 27 2:15 p.m. Geology of the Tucson Mountains** Talk: 45 minutes

The Tucson Mountains used to be part of the Santa Catalina Mountains. A geologist explains how they separated and what is shaping the Tucson Mountains today.

**Feb. 1, 8, 15, 22 2:15 p.m. The CCC in Saguaro NP** Talk: 45 minutes

The Civilian Conservation Corps was a Great Depression-era work program that greatly influenced national, state, and county parks. Saguaro's trails, picnic areas, and scenic drives were established during this program. Old photos and movie clips illustrate a brief history of the CCC in this area. *Wheelchair accessible.*

## **Naturalist Programs at the Rincon Mountain District (East, 3693 S. Old Spanish Trail):**

**February 1, 8, 22**      2:00 p.m.      **Wilderness Ramble**      1 mile Guided Walk

Here's your chance to take a walk with a ranger with twenty years' experience in the Sonoran Desert. Bring your favorite question or topic, or just enjoy the best stories of the day: wildlife, wildflowers, or wilderness, as the weather permits and the seasons change. Sturdy shoes and water are recommended.

**February 2, 9, 16, 23**      8:30 a.m.      **Desert Bird Walk**      1 mile Guided Walk

Join volunteer naturalist Vicki Powers for an easy 2-hour walk in search of desert birds. Wear comfortable walking shoes and bring water.

**February 2, 9, 16, 23**      2:00 p.m.      **Walk with the Past**      1 mile Guided Walk

Join park staff as we step into the past to learn about the lives of the prehistoric Hohokam. Sturdy shoes and water are recommended.

**February 3, 10, 17, 24**      10:00 a.m.      **Walk with the Saguaro**      1 Mile Guided Walk

Join a naturalist for this 2-hour, 1-mile easy walk to discover the many fascinating facts about the Saguaro cactus. Sturdy footwear and water are recommended.

**February 4, 11, 18, 25**      2:00 p.m.      **Reptiles & Amphibians of the Sonoran Desert**      *Illustrated Talk*

Join volunteer naturalist Bob Brandner for this 30-minute presentation to discover the fascinating world of reptiles and amphibians. *Wheelchair accessible.*

**February 7, 14, 21, 28**      1:30 p.m.      **Ranger's Choice/Visitor's Choice**      1.5 mile Guided Walk

Here's your chance to take a walk with a ranger with twenty years' experience in the Sonoran Desert. Bring your favorite question or topic, or just enjoy the best stories of the day: wildlife, wildflowers, or wilderness, as the weather and the seasons change. Sturdy shoes and water are recommended.

**February 7, 14, 21, 28**      3:00 p.m.      **History is a Work in Progress**      *Presentation*

Join us in the visitor center auditorium to explore the almost forgotten names of people and places from the late 1800's in the area of the Rincon Mountains. *Wheelchair accessible.*

**February 7 & 21**      7:00 p.m.      **Night Walk**      1 mile Guided Walk

Join a park naturalist for this easy two-hour hike to explore and experience the Sonoran Desert at night. Dress for the weather, wear comfortable walking shoes, and bring water and a flashlight. As space is limited, advanced reservations are required, and can be made by calling 733-5153

**February 13**      2:00 p.m.      **Secrets of the Spotted Cats: Jaguars & Ocelots of the SW**      *Presentation*

Join Pinau Merlin, Communications and Outreach Coordinator for the UA/USGS Jaguar Survey and Monitoring Project, in the visitor center auditorium to explore the mystery, beauty and power of these magnificent spotted cats.

**February 20**      7:00 p.m.      **Star Party**      *Illustrated Program & Activity*

Join park naturalists for an introduction to astronomy and a look at the desert night sky. Telescopes and binoculars will be available. Reservations required. Call 733-5153. *Wheelchair accessible.*

## **Visitor Center Locations/Phone Numbers**

Both visitor centers are open daily from 9:00 am to 5:00 pm, except Christmas Day.

Red Hills Visitor Center (Saguaro WEST)  
2700 North Kinney Road  
Tucson, AZ 85743  
(520) 733-5158

Rincon Mountain Visitor Center (Saguaro EAST)  
3693 South Old Spanish Trail  
Tucson, AZ 85730  
(520) 733-5153

For more information about Saguaro National Park and some of its partners, Friends of Saguaro National Park, Western National Parks Association, and the Rincon Institute, visit these websites:

[www.nps.gov/sagu](http://www.nps.gov/sagu)

[www.friendsofsaguaro.org](http://www.friendsofsaguaro.org)

[www.wnpa.org](http://www.wnpa.org)

[www.rinconinstitute.org](http://www.rinconinstitute.org)

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